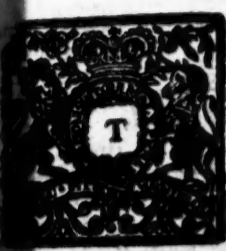


# The Daily Gazetteer:

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30. 1740.

N<sup>o</sup>. 1515.



**T**HE Mischief done by Ministers in Britain have been so long and so often the Theme of certain Writers, that I am persuaded there is scarce one of their Readers who does not think *Minister* and *Minister* synonymous Terms. It is however certain, that artful Men, and Persons who have a Knack at Writing can acquire to themselves such an Ascendancy over the Minds of less able and less knowing People, as to engage them so to attach themselves even to foolish and absurd Opinions, as to hazard their Lives in their Defence, in spite of all the Pains that may be taken to convince them of their Weakness and Credulity. In the Days of King Charles II. the *Cameronian* Preachers not only drew Numbers of their Followers into Rebellion, by the most enthusiastick Promises of Assistance from Above; but after they were actually defeated, and in the Power of the Government, they influenced them so far, as to chuse rather an infamous Death at the Gallows, than Life and Liberty on so easy Terms as saying *God save the King*. I do not instance this in Defence of that Government, but in Defence of that I have asserted, That weak and well-meaning People may be misled, or written, into most erroneous Notions, and into very wild and unjustifiable Acts in Maintenance of such Notions. Hence I would infer, that it is both the Duty and Interest of all Ranks and Degrees of People to think coolly, and examine narrowly, whenever any new Maxims are proposed for the Regulation of their Conduct, either in Church or State. *Bigotry* and *Tyranny* are certainly very bad Things; but it was the Opinion of the wisest of our Ancestors, who, if we may judge by the Works they left behind them were as wise as ourselves, there were other Things as bad, and amongst these they reckon *Envy* and *Rebellion*.

It would very ill become a Writer in this Paper to say any Thing in Extenuation either of Superstition or Arbitrary Government. The greatest Enemies of the present Administration cannot deny, that we enjoy a more extensive Freedom, in Respect either to Civil or Religious Sentiments, than ever was enjoyed by our Ancestors, even in those which were held the happiest Times. It is therefore, on the Face of the Thing, unlikely, and improbable, that a Friend to the present Administration should have any Leaning towards such Principles as are directly opposite to those on which they act. But if it should come into our People's Heads to misrepresent the true Notion of Liberty, and to endeavour, under the Pretence of preaching up Freedom, to subvert those Principles on which our Freedom really depends, it would then become the Business of such as are attached to this Administration, from their Consciousness of their being true Friends to Liberty, to expose every Branch of this false Doctrine, and to shew it to all the World in its true Light. I say this would be their Duty, notwithstanding the obvious Objection, that their Endeavour would lay hold of this Opportunity to upbraid them as Lovers of Slavery, and as Deserters of that Doctrine which in fact they bend their Endeavours to maintain. But as Right and Wrong remain Right and Wrong, in spite of all the false Reasonings made up of by wicked Men in order to distract and confound them; so a Man's Duty will continue to be his Duty, whatever Circumstances may attend it; and he is as much bound to fulfil it, when it is dangerous for him to do so, as when it is attended with Profit and Applause. From these Considerations I am led to examine how far some late Invektives against Ministers of State are founded in Reason, as also how they may be supported by the Events recorded in British History.

The Fable told by *Menenius Agrippa* to the Romans, concerning the Head and the Members, may with equal Propriety be applied to the intimate Reviling of Ministers. To the human Body the Hands are as necessary as the Head or the Feet; and tho' all Things are transacted in the Name of the Prince, yet they cannot be immediately done by him. If Ministers then are necessary, all Ministers cannot be evil; or, rather, it does not follow, that because a Man is a Minister, he is either

an ill Man or an ill Minister, which is what the Common People too readily believe. The great Crime commonly objected to Ministers, is, their influencing their Masters; and with respect to this there may be many Mistakes. In the first Place, perhaps the Fact is not true; and, in the next, it may be no Fault if it were so. The People of Sweden in general were persuaded that *Barns Gortz* influenced the King of Sweden, by his Counsels, in the Alteration of their Coin, and he died for it; died upon a Scaffold; yet the Fact was never made out: Nay, when it was strictly examined Circumstances appear'd in his Favour. The Earl of Clarendon was charged with selling a Place of great Importance to the French, from whence his Houie was by the Mob stiled *Dunkirk House*; which afterwards appeared to be a Falstity. He was also charged with influencing the King in all Things, which those who charg'd him liv'd afterwards to see was a Mistake of theirs; and, which was more, to wish it had been true. A Prince who will not be advi'd seldom proves a great Prince; and yet if any great Regard should be paid to the Discourses of modern Politicians, he would be a bold Man indeed who would presume to advise his Prince, unless he was sure his Advice would not be taken.

In Private Life we know that Matters of great Consequence cannot be carried on by the sole Endeavours of one Man, let his Case be ever so great, or his Vigour ever so extraordinary. Besides if it were possible, this Man may be surpris'd by Death in the Midst of his great Designs, and then all his good Intentions, good only as they respect Mankind in general, are entirely frustrated, if he acted without Counsel or Communication. The same Thing happens in Publick Concerns. *Henry IV.* of France was his own Minister, and it so happened that the Stroke which destroyed him had well nigh destroyed the Gallick Monarchy. It is simply impossible that the Maxims of a Ministry should be concealed in such a manner as those of Princes may be, who govern entirely of their own Heads. And therefore we have sometimes seen a Plan wisely laid by one Minister successfully executed by others; as the Earl of Salisbury completed many of Lord *Burghley's* Schemes. By these means the State remains immortal, tho' its Governors die; there may be a Change in Counsellors, but none in Councils. The *Italians*, who are supposed to be the greatest Politicians, think it the highest Commendation of the Court of Rome, that she seldom varies her Maxims. I believe it might with equal Justice be said of a State nearer home, where the Government is equally prudent, and its Subjects happy, yet the Administration is seldom chang'd. Habit in Business is a great Matter, and Experience in Affairs of State is almost the same Thing with Wisdom. But how shall Experience be attained amidst perpetual Removes? It costs some Time to know and to accustom one's self to the Function of any Office. Can it then be either reasonable or beneficial to remove a Man by that Time he is well fitted for his Charge? The Question surely with respect to Ministers should be how well they have served? And if this can be answered to Satisfaction, the Length of their Service ought to be another Recommendation.

To discern the Truth of this we need only consider what the general Judgment is in regard to all Ministers, but Ministers of State. For Instance in the Law. An old Judge, if he perfectly retains his Senses, is so far from being despised, that he is exceedingly rever'd on account of his long Continuance in Place. It is the same thing with respect to an Officer in the Army. The very Date of his Commission is the first Argument he offers when he solicits Preferment. Yet those who esteem this reasonable in the Judge and the General, and will scarce allow that a Government has a Right to disperse these Pretensions in any Case, give them up at first Word in respect to a Statesman, and agree unanimously that the longer he has been in Business, the less Reason there is for continuing him; tho' this is contrary alike to Reason and History; which shews us, that the greatest things have been perform'd by the Counsels of Old Ministers, even under young Kings. The wise King *William III.* thought it not a little strange that so knowing a Monarch as *Lewis XIV.* should make use of young Ministers; and that War which he did not live to see so gloriously carried on as it was by the Duke of Marl-

*borough*, fully prov'd that his Majesty form'd a right Judgment. For our old Officers and grave Statesmen prov'd too hard for the French Youths, tho' bred under so great a Master; and one may safely say, that the Misfortunes in the latter Part of King *Louis's* Reign were chiefly owing to his Want of some old experienc'd Minister, on whom he might safely have repos'd the Burthen of the State.

In respect to our English History, it has been very unfairly treated in order to make it speak the Language of modern Patriots with regard to Ministers. *Henry VII.* was a very great and wise Prince, yet in the Administration of Government he made use rather of Instruments than Ministers; but were the People the happier for that? No certainly! As he was severe in his Nature and covetous in his Temper, so he never wanted either Means or plausible Pretexis for gratifying his Spleen or his Love of Money. The first he verifi'd by frequent Executions, and the latter by cruel Extortions. He left two of his Instruments to be put to death by his Son, in order to appease the People; but if we may believe that Son of his, he left him but indifferent Counsellors, since *Henry VIII.* in his Answer to the Northern Rebels asserted, that there were few Persons of great Quality or eminent Abilities found by him in high Posts at his Accession. Under this King again, tho' *Wolsey* and *Cromwell* were none of the best Ministers, yet the People were easier under both their Administrations than when the King govern'd by his own Caprice. Those who ruin'd *Cromwell* sought afterwards to ruin *Cranmer*, who never gave them Offence; and as they prevail'd by turns over the King's Humour, brought each other to the Tower and to the Block. In Queen *Mary's* time the Prime Minister saved the Nation from the Spanish Yoke; and in the Days of Queen *Elizabeth*, her Steadiness to her Ministry was the Pillar of her State. As to her Successor, his Reign was easier while he adhered to the Counsel of the Earl of Salisbury, than in subsequent times, when he delect'd to his Ministers; and was directed to by his Favourites. I shall not carry this Disquisition lower, but leave the Continuance of these Observations to every intelligent Reader, who, if he will but suffer himself to be guided by his own good Sense and plain Matter of Fact, will need no other Guide in his political Researches than the History of his own Country in former times. For whatever happen'd once might happen again; and a close Observer of Events will be able to foresee much, tho' he may not pretend to prophecy.

It is in the Opinion of the Multitude a strong Prejudice against all that is written in Defence of an Administration, that the Parties who write are concern'd in Interest. But those who make this Objection never consider, that such as attack an Administration are concern'd in Interest likewise, and may with equal Cause be susp'cted of saying any thing in order to get those they oppose out, as the others can be supposed to advance whatever may appear serviceable towards keeping their Friends in. Things being thus situated, the fairest Way is to trust the Men on neither Side, but to examine studiously the Arguments used by both. In Courts of Law it is the Weight, and not the Appearance of what the Council says, which determines the Cause; and Verdicts are procured not by Words but by Reason; nor by Reason neither, if it be not supported by Evidence. May the People of England use the same Discretion in all Cases! May they ever distinguish between Sense and Sounds, and decide, where the common Safety of the Society is concern'd, with the same Coolness and Deliberation which they expect should be exercis'd wherever their private Property lies at Stake.

R. FREEMAN.

## COUNTRY NEWS.

*Colchester, April 24.* Three Persons are now confin'd in Chelmsford Gaol for being concern'd in the inhuman Murder of John Saltwell, Yeoman, late of Great Hallingbury in this County, viz. Joseph and James Houshin, Brothers, and Susannah Houshin, Daughter to the said James: They were all strictly examin'd on Thursday last before the Bench of Justices at the Quarter Sessions at Chelmsford, when Joseph confess'd the Fact, and that it was done in the following Manner: That having agreed with his



Brother James to assist in the Murther and Robbery of Mr. Saltwell, they met on the Night appointed, and proceeded to the House of Mr. Saltwell, each of the Men having a loaded Gun, and their Faces black'd with Soot and Grease; the Woman had on her Father's Great Coat and Hat, and a Hatchet in her Hand; Mr. Saltwell was going to Bed when they knock'd at his Door, threatening to kill him if he did not immediately let them in, and surrender his Money; and accordingly Joseph put the Muzzle of the Gun thro' the Window, and shot him dead, one of the Bullets took his Nose off, and the other went thro' his Right Breast. Then breaking into the House, they found the Servant-maid and a Boy in Bed, over whom the Woman stood with her Hatchet, threatening to kill them if they offer'd to stir, or open their Eyes, whilst the two Men rifled the House, where they found 18 l. in Money, several Bonds, &c. which they carried off, with a Quantity of Pewter and Linen.

James and his Daughter have likewise confessed the same. Joseph is 63 Years of Age, James about 60, and his Daughter about 30. She greatly reflects on her Father for persuading her to assist in the above Murther, and says, he debauch'd her some Years since.

The Murther was first discover'd by a Fellow who kept Company with the Woman, to whom she imparted the Secret, and desir'd his Assistance in robbing her Father of the Money taken out of Mr. Saltwell's House; to which the Fellow seemingly consented; but after leaving her, went before Jacob Houblon, Esq; one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for this County, and made a full Discovery of this horrid Affair, who issued Warrants for their being apprehended.

#### HOME PORTS.

Portsmouth, April 28. Names of several of the Merchant-ships which I mention'd Yesterday to be arrived from the Downs, viz. Bathua, Smith; Julius and Elizabeth, Jefferys; Union, Moverly, for Gibraltar; Hatley, Banks, for Virginia; Sarah and Elizabeth, Sacket, and Hill, Gorman, for Antigua; George, Sharp, and Britannia, Hutchinson, for Barbador; Eagle, Spence, for Philadelphia; Woodford, Barnard, for Maryland; and Marwood, Pain, for Portmahone.

Dover April 28. Wind W.N.W. Arrived the John and Henry, Dorbey, from South Carolina; the Elizabeth, Cunningham, from Lisbon; the Expedition, Pipon, for London, and the Henrietta, Barker, for Hull, from Oporto; and the John, Murray, for Rotterdam from Belfast. The Nottingham, Brown, for East India remains in the Road, and several of the homeward bound Ships that have arriv'd within two or three Days p.st.

Deal, April 28. Wind N.W. Remains the Seahorse Man of War; Italian Merchant, Carteret, for Leghorn; Hopewell, Tate, for Havredegace. Came down and sail'd thro' Yesterday after the Post, the Prince of Orange, Peddie, for St. Christophers; the Shirley, Thomson, for Jamaica, and the Cesar, Dewar, for Madeira. Arrived the Two Brothers, Thomson, in 5 Weeks from Georgia; the Ann, Doyle, from Oporto for Hull; the Amelia, Cranch, from South Carolina; the Hope, Saelling, from New England.

Gravesend, April 28. Pass'd by the Southampton, Fellow, from Guernsey; and the Peter, Oldson, from Norway.

Arrived at several Ports.

At Antigua, the Thomlinson, Thomlinson, and the Willoughby Bay, Stanny, from New England.

At Jamaica, the Snapper, Gray, from London and Monserat.

At Carolina, the Mercy, Waterhouse, from New England.

At Nevis for Jamaica, the Young Neptune, Winter, from London and Cork.

#### LONDON.

The Pretty Betsey, Mosely, bound from London for Virginia, sail'd out of the Downs the 13th of Sept last, and on the 3d Jan. was forc'd on shore near Cape Codd in New England, the Crew and Cargo were sav'd, and they were not without Hopes of saving the Ship.

The Cesar, Capt. Cummins, for the Coast of Comandol and Bay of Bengal, which sail'd from the Downs the 20th Inst. is put into Portsmouth the 28th Instant.

By Letters from South Carolina we have Advice, that Nicholas Trott, LL. D. heretofore Chief Justice of that Province, dy'd there on the 21st of Jan. last; a Gentleman of great Learning, Affiduity and Benevolence.

Yesterday his Majesty went to the House of Peers, and being in his Royal Robes seated on the Throne with the usual Solemnity, Sir Charles Dalton, Gentleman-Usher of the Black Rod, was sent with a Message from his Majesty to the House of Commons, commanding their Attendance in the House of Peers; the Commons being come thither accordingly, his Majesty was pleased to give the Royal Assent to Seventeen Publick, and to Eleven Private Bills.

After which his Majesty made a most gracious Speech. And then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's Command, prorogued the Parliament to the third Day of June next.

Yesterday a Disputation passed the Great Seal, to enable the Reverend Stephen Crew, M. A. Chaplain to the Lord Bishop of Landaff, to hold the Rectory of Bartlemore, in the County and Diocese of Chester, together with the Rectory of Muccleston, in the County of Stafford, and Diocese of Litchfield and Coventry.

The same Day a Writ was ordered to be issued out for Electing a Knight of the Shire for the County of Middlesex, in the Room of Sir Francis Child, Knt deceased.

#### BANKRUPTS.

Richard Broom of Shadwell in Middlesex, Oilman. John White of St. Martin's in the Fields, Middlesex, Silversmith.

John Holl of Ludham in Norfolk, Merchant-taylor and Chapman.

Christopher Armistead late of Daintry, Northamptonshire, Grocer and Distiller.

Timothy Forbes and Osborne Straton, of London, Merchants and Partners.

Samuel Thornton of Edmonton in Middlesex, Haberdasher.

William Biddle, of the Parish of St. Clement Danes, Middlesex, Vintner, Victualler and Chapman.

Richard Archer, the Elder, of Dartford in Kent, Paper-maker.

High Water this Day	Morning	Evening
at London Bridge	01 59	02 22

Bank Stock 140 1-4th. India 158 3-4ths. South Sea 99 1-4th. Old Annuity 110 without the Dividend. New ditto 110 5-8ths. Three per Cent. 101 1-4th. Seven per Cent. Loan 109 1-half. Five per Cent. ditto 91 1-4th. Royal Assurance 87. London Assurance 11. African 10. India Bonds 4 1/4. Prem. Bank Circulation 4 l. 17 s. 6 d. Prem Salt Tallies 1-4th to 1-half Prem. English Copp 7 1/2 s. 6 d. Welsh ditto 15 s. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Orders 103. Three per Cent. ditto 95 3-4ths. Million Bank 114 1-half. Equivalent 110 1-8th.

#### This is to give Notice,

THAT To-morrow being the 1st of May at 11 o' Clock in the Forenoon, there will be a General Meeting of the Society for the Encouragement of Learning, at their House in St. Martin's-lane.

Alex. Gordon, Secretary.

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